PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: ***God of providence, Bless these gifts. May they become shelter for the vulnerable, comfort for the grieving, and signs of Christ's saving love in the world. Amen.***

HYMN ***Great Is Thy Faithfulness*** **Blue Hymnal #86**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go now in the faithful love of God the Father,
who shelters you with steadfast mercy.

Go in the compassion of Christ the Son,
whose arms are always open to gather you home.

Go in the comfort of the Holy Spirit,
who surrounds you with grace
and will never leave you.

And may the blessing of the Holy Trinity
hold you, keep you, and carry you -
always beneath the wings of divine love.

All people: ***Amen.***

POSTLUDE **Mr. Kevin Crone**

March 15, 2026

A Hen Reveals a Grieving Savior

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All people: ***Holy God, You are our shelter in troubled times, our refuge when fear presses close, our steady hope when the world feels uncertain. In Jesus Christ you revealed a love willing to grieve, a Savior willing to suffer, and a mercy wide enough to gather the whole world home. Open our hearts this day. Teach us again to trust beneath your wings. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

PRELUDE **Mr. Kevin Crone**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God gathers the scattered and shelters the weary.
Congregation: **Like a mother who gathers her children close, God draws us near in love.**
Pastor: When fear rises and storms gather,
Congregation: **God spreads wide the wings of mercy.**
Pastor: Christ longs to gather us –
not with force, but with compassion.
Congregation: **We come seeking refuge, forgiveness, and new life.**
All: ***Let us worship the God whose patience never ends and whose love never fails.***

HYMN ***How Firm a Foundation*** **Red Hymnal #314**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: Friends, God does not wait for us to be perfect before offering mercy. With trust in God's grace, let us come before God honestly and openly in confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All people: ***Merciful God, you call to us again and again, yet we rush past your invitations. You offer shelter, yet we trust in our own strength. You offer patience, yet we grow impatient with one another. You offer grace, yet we cling to fear and resentment. Forgive us. Gather us again beneath your mercy. Heal what is broken within us. Turn us toward the life revealed in Jesus Christ.*** *(Silence observed for time of personal confession)* ***Amen.***

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ does not turn away from those who return to him. The One who wept over Jerusalem also stretched out his arms upon the cross - not in anger, but in saving love. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and gathered home.

All people: ***Thanks be to God. Amen.***

GLORIA PATRI **Red Hymnal #493**

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

ANTHEM ***O Come to Me You Weary*** (Lloyd) **Chancel Choir**

OLD TESTAMENT READING **Isaiah 10:12-14, 20-21**

HYMN ***Jesus, Lover of My Soul*** **Red Hymnal, #316**

GOSPEL READING **Matthew 23:37-39**

DIALOGUE SERMON **Rev. Baker & Ms. Catherine Fuhrman**

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All people*:** ***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: The God who shelters us also calls us to shelter others. As Christ gathers us in mercy, we share what we have so that others may know compassion, safety, and hope. Let us give with grateful hearts. You are invited to stand, as you are able, for the dedication of our gifts through song and prayer.

DOXOLOGY ***We Give Thee*** (Verse 1) **Red Hymnal #258**